



National  
Congress of  
American  
Indians

## Preparing for an NCAI Semester Undergraduate Internship

*Serve Your People, Secure Your Future*

There are a few key study programs and housing programs in Washington to complement a semester interning with NCAI.

**Semester In Washington—Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP)** at George Washington University, in cooperation with corporate sponsors, hosts a semester long program during the spring semester. The scholarship program gives qualified Native American undergraduates the opportunity to spend a semester in the nation's capital while taking classes at GW, participating in hands-on internships and interacting with political leaders and policy makers. The NAPLP includes a series of seminars on Capitol Hill devoted to public policy issues affecting Native American communities, and will play a key role in preparing the next generation of Native American political leaders.

Beginning in January 2006, qualified Native American students will receive individual scholarships to cover tuition, fees, housing, books and other expenses. As a participant in Semester In Washington, you will be immersed in the American political process and will learn how public policy decisions are made, how legislation is created, how our government operates and how democratic policies function in a free society. You will learn key elements of political campaigns and governance such as message development, media production, voter targeting, direct mail, fundraising, and lobbying. You will reap the benefits of working in exciting internships, participating in meaningful networking events, receiving academic credit for classroom study, and studying issues of importance to Native American communities.

You will return to your campus knowing what it takes to win elections, form coalitions, pass legislation and influence public opinion. You will be better informed about how politics works and more aware of how you can influence those processes to improve your tribal government and your community. Interested students who are enrolled members of a Native American tribe can find more information at <http://www.gwu.edu/~siw/naplp/>.

**Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS)** is a program administered by American University. WINS offers students of sovereign American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) nations the opportunity to build leadership skills while living, studying, and interning in Washington, DC. Developed in response to the White House Initiative on American Indians and Alaska Natives, this enriching program offers qualified students full scholarships funded by American University and sponsoring organizations. Participating students will gain professional work experience through interning at a federal agency or private firm, take courses focusing on Native American public policy concerns, and enjoy engaging social and cultural extra-curricular activities. While students in the WINS program cannot currently intern with NCAI, as NCAI does not pay internships which is required under the program, the program is still a wonderful opportunity for Native students.

This program is offered free of charge to eligible students through a scholarship grant funded by American University and sponsoring organizations. American Indian, Alaska Native (AI/AN), and

other students enrolled in a college or university as a sophomore, junior, senior, or graduate student in good academic standing are eligible to participate in the WINS program. Sophomores must have completed the equivalent of four (4) semesters of fulltime study to be eligible to participate in the program.

Most students receive a full scholarship to attend the program. Funding is provided by American University, governmental agencies, American Indian and Alaska Native organizations, Tribes, foundations, and private corporations. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition, travel to and from Washington DC, local transportation on the Metro, lodging, and the cost of scheduled social and cultural activities. Incidental expenses for non-program activities, including medical care and independent social activities are the responsibility of the student. Students not awarded full scholarships may apply for other scholarships or pay program costs.

The program runs for 8 weeks during the summer. For information, visit the website at [http://www.american.edu/wins/program\\_details.html](http://www.american.edu/wins/program_details.html).

**Washington Intern Semester Housing (WISH)** is a unique semester housing program. The housing program is administered by a private for-profit firm. Located throughout historic Capitol Hill neighborhoods with wide, tree-lined streets, WISH housing is a thoughtful choice for students who desire a location close to the nation's Capitol, Congressional offices, Library of Congress, the Supreme Court, and metro stations. WISH provides all the necessary furnishings and instant internet access! Public transportation is excellent and Capitol Hill provides a great "walking" lifestyle. If you bring your car, please note that we do not provide parking space, and street parking often is difficult to find. WISH is a housing program that accommodates students who are not participating in an internship or curricular program through which housing is provided.

WISH interns usually rent for three months (summer semester), four months (fall semester), or four or five months (spring semester). Rates range from \$975 to \$1275 per month for a shared apartment or townhouse with other housemates to \$1700 per month for a private studio apartment. Most interns share properties to keep the cost down. Special group housing rates are available to colleges and universities. WISH has a limited number of one or two month rentals; the minimum rent is \$1200 per month. All properties are fully furnished (including television, dishes, coffee makers, etc.) and include utilities. You can find more information at: <http://www.internsdc.com>.

**For further information,** be sure to check with your school and your tribe. Having hosted many interns in the past, it is NCAI's experience that your college and your Tribal government may be willing to provide assistance as well.

If we can help you prepare for your semester in DC in any way, please feel free to contact us with your questions and concerns. We look forward to working together!